



CALIFORNIA ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

HON. TED LIEU, CHAIR

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 29, 2009**

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ASSEMBLYMEMBER TED LIEU HELPS SECURE \$30 MILLION INCREASE IN FOUNDATION GIVING TO MINORITY COMMUNITIES, INCLUDING THE API COMMUNITY

SACRAMENTO – Assemblymember Lieu, Chair of the API Legislative Caucus, along with Assemblymember Coto, Chair of the Latino Caucus, and Assemblymember Swanson, Chair of the Black Caucus, recently met with California Foundation leaders regarding a plan to invest more funds into minority non-profit organizations. A coalition of 9 California Foundations, known as the Foundation Coalition, announced its plans to invest a total of \$30 million to minority non-profit organizations in the next two to three years. The project is the result of various discussions in the 2007 - 2008 legislative session between foundation leadership and Members of the Tri-Caucus around Assembly Bill (AB) 624 (Coto).

“Government and Non-Profit services are facing difficult challenges as a result of the economic crisis. Minority communities, who are already underserved, run the risk of losing basic services to address their needs,” stated Assemblymember Ted Lieu. “The initial investment of \$30 million for underserved, minority organizations is a step in the right direction. I remain committed to working with other Tri-Caucus Leaders and the Foundation Coalition to expand the current proposal and to ensure that funds are distributed appropriately to minority community-based organizations with the most need.”

In light of a Greenlining Institute study exposing how only 3.6% of foundation dollars were granted to minority-led non-profit organizations, Tri-Caucus leaders rallied last year to pressure foundations to do the right thing and make their foundation giving more equitable. One study showed that Asian Pacific Islander organizations only received 1% of the total grants giving by major Foundations in 2004.

Specifically, the Foundation Coalition aims to provide approximately \$20 million for increased grant support from individual foundations to non-profit organizations serving minority-led and other grassroots community based organizations serving diverse and low-income communities. In addition, the Foundation Coalition intends to commit \$10 million in joint community-base regarding programs to provide leadership training, technical assistance, and organizations capacity support to smaller, minority-led and other grassroots organizations.

The Foundation Coalition includes: The Ahmanson Foundation, The Annenberg Foundation, The California Endowment, The California Wellness Foundation, The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, The James Irvine Foundation, The Davis and Lucile Packard Foundation, and The UniHealth Foundation

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